



# Fact Sheet

## Title: Gulf Coast Area Public Use Cabins



Alaska Department of  
**NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation  
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Through a permit from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and with funding by the University of Alaska, Alaska State Parks is renting two cabins in the Yakataga area. Midtimber Lake Cabin is within the Yakataga State Game Refuge while Vitus Lake Cabin is a short distance outside the refuge boundary.

The cabins rent for \$65 per night and the maximum stay is 7 consecutive nights in either cabin. The cabin heat source is an oil stove. **Please use Number One fuel oil or kerosene.** Trails connect the cabins, the coast and a natural landing strip near a USGS research camp. The trail from the beach to the landing strip is 7.3 miles in length.

**Accommodations:** The cabins are 16' x 20' with an eight foot covered porch. The cabins sleep eight people with two single bunks downstairs and a 12' x 8' loft over the porch. Interior furnishings include a table and benches. There is a counter and shelf space for food preparation. A cooking area is located outside on the porch as well. Additionally, the cabins have an outside bench, pit latrine, and bear-proof food storage box nearby.

**Access:** Primarily by Commercial Air Charter. Both *Fishing and Flying* and *Cordova Air* fly regularly in the area and are familiar with landing sites. Depending on ice and weather conditions floatplane landing is possible on Midtimber Lake and Vitus Lake. The natural airstrip adjacent to the USGS Field camp (known locally as Moose International) is accessible by tundra-tired planes as conditions allow.

**Communications:** No cell phone coverage in this area. Satellite phones would be highly desirable for those needing to reach emergency services. Charter aircraft regularly monitor Channel 10 Marine VHF.

**Bear Care:** Bear, both brown and black, inhabit the area along with a variety of wildlife. Precautions should be taken while hiking and staying in the area to avoid an encounter. Mid-summer foliage obscures views along the trail and the possibility of surprising a bear or other wildlife is very likely. Making noise and carrying some method of personal protection against bears is advisable.

**The Gulf Coast Environment:** Perhaps one of the more wild and remote locations within the Alaska Public Use Cabin System, these two cedar-constructed cabins are located in a thin strip of land bordered by Cape Suckling to the west, Cape Yakataga to the east, the immense Bering Glacier to the north and the dynamic Gulf of Alaska to the south. The grand landscape of the broad face of the Bering Glacier, with giant icebergs floating in Vitus lake and the seemingly endless strand of sandy beach along the coast make this area a scenic wonderland. The heavily mineralized rocks of the region line the glacial shores while glass floats and other flotsam lie hidden among the bleached and weathered logs of the Gulf's beaches.

Weather in this region is subject to extreme and rapid changes. Storm systems developing in the Gulf of Alaska tend to make this an exciting area to experience their full effect.

**Preparation is the key to enjoying this area in spite of whatever weather or other conditions occur.** All surface water needs to be treated prior to drinking. Be aware that the waters of Vitus Lake may be untreatable at certain times of the year due to salt water intruding up the Seal River and causing brackish conditions. Midtimber Lake may have the same brackish conditions due to storm surges, but as of now, the water can be treated.

In preparing for any stay on the Gulf Coast, it will be important to have alternative plans should weather prohibit normal charter flights from being able to land and retrieve passengers. Visitors in this area will need to thoroughly brief their charter flight service regarding what they will do in the event of delays.

**Some Reminders:**

- Pack out what you pack in.
- When latrines are not available, bury human waste away from trails and sources of water, both fresh and salt.
- Open fires are permitted only on ocean beaches, preferably below mean high tide. Fires elsewhere must be in a portable stove, metal-bottomed container or designated fire site.
- Fishing and hunting regulations may be obtained from the Department of Fish and Game. <http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/>
- Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 1/2 mile of developed facilities. Target shooting is prohibited in all areas of the recreation area.

Topographic maps: USGS 1:250,000 Bering Glacier, Alaska. USGS Quad 1:63,360 Bering Glacier A-7.

**GPS Coordinates:**

Midtimber Lake Cabin: LAT: 60°04'47.67" N.  
LON: 143°21'08.75" W.

Vitus Lake Cabin: LAT: 60°07'26.81" N. LON:  
143°18'29.50" W.

